

FACT SHEET

August 2001

ECAMP

Overview

To achieve and maintain environmental quality, the Air Force established Environmental Protection Committees (EPCs), which act to ensure an integrated multi-disciplinary approach for the identifying environmental impacts, minimization of these impacts, and developing policies to maintain environmental compliance. As a check to ensure the Air Force's environmental program was functioning efficiently, an annual audit program was developed, known as the Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program (ECAMP). ECAMPs are a vital part of the Air Force's Environmental Management System. These environmental audits aid in assessing the status of an installations environmental management system as well as identify deficiencies, best management practices, and provide a mechanism for tracking solutions to identified environmental problems. The primary goal of the program is to improve environmental management thus meeting environmental compliance standards and build supporting programs for funding environmental requirements.

The Process

The ECAMP includes all installations, support sites, and government-owned, contractor-operated facilities. Major installations are required to conduct internal environmental compliance assessment at least annually and an external compliance assessment at least once every three years. However, during the year of an external ECAMP, installations do not have to conduct an internal assessment. For all other installations, the Major Command (MAJCOM) should determine the frequency of the assessment, or may exempt the facility. An installation may be excluded from conducting an environmental compliance assessment if no significant environmental activity takes place or if an assessment would interfere with military effectiveness; however, the MAJCOM must annually review exempt facilities.

Whether an installation is undergoing an annual internal compliance assessment or a third year external compliance assessment, the ECAMP process is identical. Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7045, *Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program (ECAMP)*, 1 July 1998, provides a detailed discussion of the ECAMP process, outlined below.

➤ **Pre-Assessment** involves the development of the assessment team and review of all relevant federal, state, and local regulations as well as military regulations, directives, or instructions applicable to the installation. Pre-assessment activities also include establishing the scope of the assessment and team responsibilities. All team members should have access to pre-visit questionnaires and an Enforcement Vulnerability Analysis (EVA). The questionnaires provide information regarding the installation and its operations, while an EVA, provided by the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence Regional Environmental Office (REO), furnishes information on environmental issues that are susceptible to enforcement actions by regulatory agencies.

➤ **Site Assessment** involves the assessment team conducting record searches, interviews, and site surveys. To evaluate compliance status environmental standards are compared to site operation, any deficiencies are written up as findings, for which the team must prepare root cause analysis and management action plans. In addition, the team should provide feedback to the installation so any findings from evaluated activities may be corrected as soon as possible.

➤ **Post-Assessment** requires the team chief to out-brief the Installation Commander utilizing the Preliminary Environmental Findings Report. The report contains all observations of the assessment team, including findings that were immediately corrected. Any management action plans developed by the assessment team to correct deficiencies should recommend pollution prevention opportunities. For systemic environmental problems, the team prepares a root cause analysis that addresses and corrects the fundamental deficiency.



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Findings

There are several different types of findings that an assessment team can give an installation, including: Carryover; Major; Minor; Positive; Repeat; and Significant. Findings must be assigned a specific identification code to denote the environmental assessment protocol area involved in each finding. Air Force ECAMP assessment protocols are provided in a supplement to the DoD's *The Environmental Assessment and Management (TEAM) Guide*, with state and country specific protocols also established.

Best management practices (BMP's), a standard of excellence or achievement considered best in class, are identified as "Positive Findings" during an ECAMP. These findings are required to be forwarded to the installation's MAJCOM. Positive findings are then included in a report to the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense and provided to the Environmental Quality Directorate, Headquarters Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (HQ AFCEE/EQ) for crossfeeding to the Air Force and other DoD components in PRO-ACT's monthly CrossTalk publication.

Data Management & Reporting

MAJCOMs are solely responsible for ensuring the ECAMP is implemented and data is managed in a manner to facilitate Air Force wide collection and evaluation. ECAMP core data must follow the format outlined in AFI 32-7045. The specific format of the core data is limited to field name,

field type, and field length; enabling each individual MAJCOM to select a database for recording and managing ECAMP findings and data.

All final ECAMP assessment reports must follow the format established in AFI 32-7045. **ECAMP final reports should be completed within 180 days of an external assessment and within 120 days of an internal assessment.** Internal ECAMP reports are finalized by the EPCs who forward the results of the assessment to their MAJCOM; while external ECAMP reports are finalized by the MAJCOM. MAJCOMs are required to forward a copy of the final external ECAMP report within 30 days to HQ AFCEE/EQ who analyze the reports to determine Air Force environmental compliance trends, which are then reported to ILEV and the MAJCOMs.

Additional Information

Contact Mr. Scott Newquist, HQ AFCEE/EQ, DSN 240-3517 or PRO-ACT at DSN 240-4240.

Web Sites

- ☞ *TEAM Guide and Supplements*, DENIX, <http://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/DOD/Library/Assessment/tools.html>.
- ☞ *Assessor Training Course*, Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), <http://www.afit.edu/>.
- ☞ *AFI 32-7045*, Air Force Publishings, <http://afpubs.hq.af.mil/>.

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